

In The Claims:

Please delete claims 6, 7 and 10, and amend the claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 21 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method of communication in a network communications system, the communications system comprising a plurality of network devices, wherein each network device is positioned at a physical location and wherein each network device is adapted to perform a designated function according to the physical location of said each network device, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying the physical location of said each network device using a physical site locator;
and

associating the identified physical location to a network address in the network communications system, so that the network address associated to said each network device can be used in coordinating the designated function of said each network device with the designated function of other network devices in the network communications system.

8. (Amended) A method of communicating with a plurality of devices in a network communications system wherein each device is positioned at a physical location, said method comprising the step of converting a map of the physical locations of the devices into one or more address tables, each table including a plurality of network addresses for routing messages to the devices, wherein at least one of the devices comprises a programmable logic controller having a network address assigned thereto from said address table, and the physical locations of at least some of the devices are identified by a physical site locator.

9. (Amended) A method of communicating with a plurality of devices in a network communications system wherein each device is positioned at a physical location, said method comprising the step of converting a map of the physical locations of the devices into one or more address tables, each table including a plurality of network addresses for routing messages to the devices, wherein at least one of the devices comprises an I/O device of a programmable logic controller system having a network address assigned thereto from said address table, and the physical location at least some of the devices are identified by a physical site locator.

11. (Amended) A network communications system comprising a plurality of network devices positioned at a plurality of physical locations, wherein each network device is adapted to perform a designated function according to the physical location of said each network device, said system comprising:

means for identifying the physical location of said each network device using a physical site locator; and

means for associating the identified physical location to a network address of the network communications system so that network address associated to said each network device can be used in coordinating the designated function of said each network device with the designated function of other network devices.

21. (Amended) A network device located at a physical location in a network communications system, the network communications system comprising a plurality of other network devices located at a plurality of other physical locations, wherein the other network devices are adapted to perform one or more designated functions, and wherein the system comprises means for identifying the physical site location of said network device using a physical site locator, said network device comprising:

means for performing a function designated to said network device according to the